

THE SCOTT COUNTY NEWSBOY.

PHIL A. HAFNER, Publisher.

BENTON, MISSOURI.

SLEEPIN' IN THE ATTIC.

I remember when my pa said: "Jimmie, go to bed." For I was a funny kid of things went scotchy through my head. For I slept in the attic, where the sharo-things come at night. Where the goblins grow from rafters, an' impes hide from sight. An' wait to jump out on yer when yer're most asleep. An' where there's funny crawlin' things 'at creep, creep, creep. Up on the bed, an' ar' yer throat, an' make yer cry and groan. All 's because yer have to sleep up attic all alone. An' I remember pa said he thought most of a kid 'ould like to sleep up attic, leastwise he always did. An' when yer hear the rats er runnin' round at night. An' yer think perhaps the bogie men with long white teeth at bite. An' then the moon comes in an' lays er white streak on th' floor. An' yer go to sleep an' dream about th' bogie men some more. An' the cobwebs on the rafters look like fairy castles. An' yer think perhaps the moonlight is Jimmie Nolan's ghost. For Jimmie when he worked here said 'at ghosts lived in the house. An' they was big er little like the moonshine er a mouse. An' I tuck my head down where the bogie men can't see. Right in th' bed, an' that's th' way fer little folks like me. An' once at night, I know, I see a funny thing an' scream. An' pa come up an' laughed, an' said he guessed I only dreamed. But it wa'n't er dream at all, I know, fer over by th' wall. Er yer man hung by his neck, an' he was awful tall. An' he kept movin' back an' forth an' kicked his legs at me. An' pa said in the mornin' 'f I'd look there I would see. 'Twas jes' th' yellin' corn 'at had a dym, 'nother more. Then he went out with th' candle an' shut th' attic door. An' then I see him shake again, the yellin' man, an' crawl. Er hangin' by his neck there in th' dark upon th' wall. An' then I tuck my head down in th' clothes an' couldn't see. An' th' first I knew 'twas mornin' an' pa was callin' me.

all their lives they spoke the one thought that had meant more to them than anything else. Even Bob Barton's name had never passed their lips since that day when the news came that it was disgraced forever by his father's crime. They knew, in a way, what had come to him—that he had felt the disgrace as only a sensitive soul can feel that, with hopes and ambitions blighted, he had passed the fifteen years of his father's imprisonment in bitter loneliness; and that his life since then had been devoted to the broken old man, who came out from the prison walls enfeebled in mind and body and helpless as a child. Miss Harriet spoke again, after a long silence. "Yes, I s'pose he was."

"I don't believe there's enough for a decent buryin'."

"I don't believe there is."

"There was silence again. The gray cat wakened, yawned and stretched himself; then he jumped down from his cushion and rubbed his sleek sides against Miss Harriet. She did not notice him, and he, surprised at such unusual neglect, stalked to the door and requested, after his fashion, to be let out. Miss Harriet rose mechanically, picked up her knitting and opened the door. She sat down again and slipped the yarn over her finger, but at the first stitch her hands dropped idly in her lap. The old clock ticked on. The noises in the street had ceased. The fire was out and the room cold, but still the sisters sat, waiting, until all save the past. Finally, after much fidgeting in her chair and many uneasy glances at her sister, after opening her mouth only to close it again, Miss Harriet broke the silence.

"Sister?"

"Her voice had a half-frightened quaver in it."

"Well?"

Miss Margaret's tone was so much less sharp than usual that Harriet took courage and went on.

"Why, you know that money we've saved, in case we should get sick or anything?"

"Yes, I know," Harriet paused to note the effect of her words.

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There was no surprise in the tone, no change in the pale face.

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Again there was silence. Miss Margaret rose, folded and laid by her work, locked the door, wound the clock and took up the lamp.

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They put out the light and went to bed. If they slept or waked, if they shed tears in the darkness, if their poor hearts ached with the pain of forty years ago, they did not tell each other of it.

They were astir early next morning. The September sun had hardly begun to warm the world when their scanty breakfast was over, the dishes washed and put away, the old carpet swept and the room dusted.

Miss Margaret came out of the tiny bedroom with her bonnet on.

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"No, 'tain't a mistake," Margaret answered. "I told him to change it; you were so set against Robert. And it does look more natural," she added, after a moment. "We always called him that."

Nothing more was said, and presently they turned away. They walked home silently. Once Harriet spoke. There were tears on her cheeks; Margaret had seen them, and Harriet's tones were apologetic.

Margaret could have the first reading of the news. Usually she took it a day old.

Someway the good things of life had always come a day late to Miss Margaret, or else not at all. Perhaps that was the reason why her face, which had been handsome once and full of promise, had such sharp lines about the mouth. It was a thin, angular face, and the scant, straight hair above it, which used to be so black, was streaked with gray.

At the other side of the small round table sat Miss Margaret's sister Harriet, placidly knitting. If her face bore fewer traces of disappointment than Margaret's, it was not because she had had more of the joys of life. Perhaps it was because she had expected less. Harriet Staples had been called a very plain girl; but now hers was a pleasant face to look upon, round and peaceful, the touch of rose color in the cheeks contrasting prettily with the snowy whiteness of her soft, heavy hair. The eyes were pleasant and friendly; at the corners of the mouth were the little wrinkles that come from smiles, and, altogether, the face was very lovable.

Yet these two sisters had lived their lives and grown old together. For forty years they had not been separated for a single night. For forty years and more they had had the same things to worry over, and to be glad about, the same sorrows and the same simple pleasures.

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Even Miss Harriet's calm face showed signs of agitation, and her hand shook as she reached for the paper.

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The paper had lost all attractions for Miss Margaret, and Harriet's stocking fell to the floor unheeded. The room was very still—only the little old clock ticking in the corner, and the purring of the great, gray cat on his cushion.

Outside, in the street, people were passing to and fro. Sometimes their voices were loud and penetrating, but the sisters did not hear them. They were back in the long ago, when handsome Bob Barton used to spend an evening, now and then, in this same sitting-room, which in all these years had never quite lost the glory of his presence.

By and by two tears forced themselves from Harriet's eyes. She wiped them away hastily, and glanced furtively at her sister. Margaret had not seen the tears, and her face wore such a softened look that Harriet ventured to speak.

"Father used to set such store by him," she said, softly. "Twas you he always used to come to see. I always knew that."

"Me? Twasn't neither! Everybody knew he wanted you—if it hadn't been for his miserable father!"

"O sister! don't say that," pleaded Miss Harriet, her pretty old cheeks wet with tears which now she did not try to hide. "I'm sure we all thought 'twas you. He always looked at you the whole evening."

"But he talked to you. And didn't he give you that shell box?"

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all their lives they spoke the one thought that had meant more to them than anything else. Even Bob Barton's name had never passed their lips since that day when the news came that it was disgraced forever by his father's crime. They knew, in a way, what had come to him—that he had felt the disgrace as only a sensitive soul can feel that, with hopes and ambitions blighted, he had passed the fifteen years of his father's imprisonment in bitter loneliness; and that his life since then had been devoted to the broken old man, who came out from the prison walls enfeebled in mind and body and helpless as a child. Miss Harriet spoke again, after a long silence. "Yes, I s'pose he was."

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"I always knew 'twas you he come to see, sister. I always knew it."

"Twasn't no such thing, Harriet Staples!"

"Well, I'm glad we did it, anyway. Father thought so much of him," N. E. Magazine.

Haug or Harry.

In the feudal days of Scotland, when noblemen thought it no disgrace to steal their neighbors' cattle, a baron protected his vassals from the aristocratic cattle-lifters by hanging out right those taken red-hand, without waiting for the slow process of the law. When Sir William Scott was a young Border laird he made one night a foray on Sir Gideon Murray's lands. While driving off a herd of cattle he was caught, and being brought before Sir Gideon, ordered to be hanged. Hanging a cattle-thief was such an everyday affair that Sir Gideon went about his ordinary business. But his wife, hearing that a handsome youth of a good family was to be executed, sought her husband, and indignantly exclaimed:

"Hoot, Gideon, what do I hear? You tak' the life of the winsome young laird of Harden, wi' three ill-favored hussies in the house o' yer ain't marry?"

"Ye're recht, Maggie, my dear," replied the baron, grasping the situation. "Wallie shall tak' our muckle moid Meg, or else he'll stretch for it."

The helpless prisoner consented, and much to his father's surprise, returned home with a bride from the neighbor's house he had ridden out to marry—YOUTH'S COMPANION.

A timid person is frightened before a danger: a coward during the time; and a courageous person afterward.—Richies.

Cholly Lighthouse—Bah Jove! Miss Emerson, I believe I could make you love me if I had a mind to.

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BENTON, MISSOURI.

SLEEPIN' IN THE ATTIC.

I remember when my pa said: "Jimmie, go to bed." For I was a funny kid of things went scotchy through my head. For I slept in the attic, where the sharo-things come at night. Where the goblins grow from rafters, an' impes hide from sight. An' wait to jump out on yer when yer're most asleep. An' where there's funny crawlin' things 'at creep, creep, creep. Up on the bed, an' ar' yer throat, an' make yer cry and groan. All 's because yer have to sleep up attic all alone. An' I remember pa said he thought most of a kid 'ould like to sleep up attic, leastwise he always did. An' when yer hear the rats er runnin' round at night. An' yer think perhaps the bogie men with long white teeth at bite. An' then the moon comes in an' lays er white streak on th' floor. An' yer go to sleep an' dream about th' bogie men some more. An' the cobwebs on the rafters look like fairy castles. An' yer think perhaps the moonlight is Jimmie Nolan's ghost. For Jimmie when he worked here said 'at ghosts lived in the house. An' they was big er little like the moonshine er a mouse. An' I tuck my head down where the bogie men can't see. Right in th' bed, an' that's th' way fer little folks like me. An' once at night, I know, I see a funny thing an' scream. An' pa come up an' laughed, an' said he guessed I only dreamed. But it wa'n't er dream at all, I know, fer over by th' wall. Er yer man hung by his neck, an' he was awful tall. An' he kept movin' back an' forth an' kicked his legs at me. An' pa said in the mornin' 'f I'd look there I would see. 'Twas jes' th' yellin' corn 'at had a dym, 'nother more. Then he went out with th' candle an' shut th' attic door. An' then I see him shake again, the yellin' man, an' crawl. Er hangin' by his neck there in th' dark upon th' wall. An' then I tuck my head down in th' clothes an' couldn't see. An' th' first I knew 'twas mornin' an' pa was callin' me.

all their lives they spoke the one thought that had meant more to them than anything else. Even Bob Barton's name had never passed their lips since that day when the news came that it was disgraced forever by his father's crime. They knew, in a way, what had come to him—that he had felt the disgrace as only a sensitive soul can feel that, with hopes and ambitions blighted, he had passed the fifteen years of his father's imprisonment in bitter loneliness; and that his life since then had been devoted to the broken old man, who came out from the prison walls enfeebled in mind and body and helpless as a child. Miss Harriet spoke again, after a long silence. "Yes, I s'pose he was."

"I don't believe there's enough for a decent buryin'."

"I don't believe there is."

"There was silence again. The gray cat wakened, yawned and stretched himself; then he jumped down from his cushion and rubbed his sleek sides against Miss Harriet. She did not notice him, and he, surprised at such unusual neglect, stalked to the door and requested, after his fashion, to be let out. Miss Harriet rose mechanically, picked up her knitting and opened the door. She sat down again and slipped the yarn over her finger, but at the first stitch her hands dropped idly in her lap. The old clock ticked on. The noises in the street had ceased. The fire was out and the room cold, but still the sisters sat, waiting, until all save the past. Finally, after much fidgeting in her chair and many uneasy glances at her sister, after opening her mouth only to close it again, Miss Harriet broke the silence.

"Sister?"

"Her voice had a half-frightened quaver in it."

"Well?"

Miss Margaret's tone was so much less sharp than usual that Harriet took courage and went on.

"Why, you know that money we've saved, in case we should get sick or anything?"

"Yes, I know," Harriet paused to note the effect of her words.

"Well?"

There was no surprise in the tone, no change in the pale face.

"Why, seems to me we could get on; it only took us ten years to save it, and we ain't very old—and—and—we're pretty healthy—and we can be more savin' if we try. We don't need that carpet much; and we can get along without them new dresses—mine hasn't been turned but once."

"Well, what do you want to do?"

Miss Margaret's tones were sharp enough now. It irritated her to have Harriet so long in coming to a point which had been evident to her from the beginning. But it was something that she did not exclaim at once against the spending of their carefully hoarded fund, and Harriet went on bravely.

"And get a little headstone," Harriet's voice had sunk almost to a whisper. "Father thought so much of him, you know."

Again there was silence. Miss Margaret rose, folded and laid by her work, locked the door, wound the clock and took up the lamp.

"Come to bed," she said. "It's half-past ten."

They put out the light and went to bed. If they slept or waked, if they shed tears in the darkness, if their poor hearts ached with the pain of forty years ago, they did not tell each other of it.

They were astir early next morning. The September sun had hardly begun to warm the world when their scanty breakfast was over, the dishes washed and put away, the old carpet swept and the room dusted.

Miss Margaret came out of the tiny bedroom with her bonnet on.

"Where are you going?"

Harriet looked up, surprised; she usually did the errands.

"I'm going to ask Mr. Morgan to see to things for the funeral. I'm the oldest, and it's proper I should do it. You'd better put on your other dress, an' go an' get that money out of the bank."

And so the matter was settled; and poor old Bob Barton, who had died alone, and left not a relative in the world, nor a cent of money, instead of

being early and severe. Even the bright-tinted leaves had fallen from the trees, and the whole landscape was brown and dreary. In the old cemetery, where the hill slopes gently to the south, stood two women, looking down upon a grave. The wind blew Miss Margaret's scanty skirts about her ankles, and puffed out Miss Harriet's shawl behind, like a balloon. Miss Margaret's face was cold and pinched, with the thin wisps of hair blowing about it, and Harriet's bonnet was askew, and her nose reddened by the wind. Some people were passing. A pretty girl in a party gizzled and said something to the others about the "two old maids." But the sisters were alike unconscious of the grotesqueness of their appearance and the pathos of the white stone that marked an old man's grave with its one word—"Bob."

"Why, sister?" Miss Harriet looked alarmed. "Why, he's made a mistake! We told him Robert."

"No, 'tain't a mistake," Margaret answered. "I told him to change it; you were so set against Robert. And it does look more natural," she added, after a moment. "We always called him that."

Nothing more was said, and presently they turned away. They walked home silently. Once Harriet spoke. There were tears on her cheeks; Margaret had seen them, and Harriet's tones were apologetic.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

—Of all virtues, Justice is the best; valor without it is a common pest.—Walker.

—Miss Elderly—"I shall never marry." Laura—"Probably not; but you made a brave fight."—Life.

—Judge—"What's the charge against this prisoner?" Officer—"Didn't know he was loaded your honor."—Somer-ville Journal.

INDUSTRIAL AND STATISTICAL.

Bainco peppermill is the leading industry of Vayco county, N. Y.

The coal production of 1892 in the United States was valued at \$27,566,000. It is estimated that there are 75,000,000 tons of all kinds in the United States.

The knife of the assassin in Italy closes